

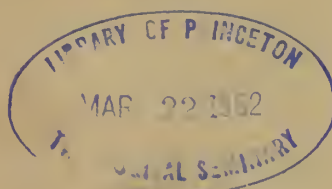
THE CHRONICLE

OF THE

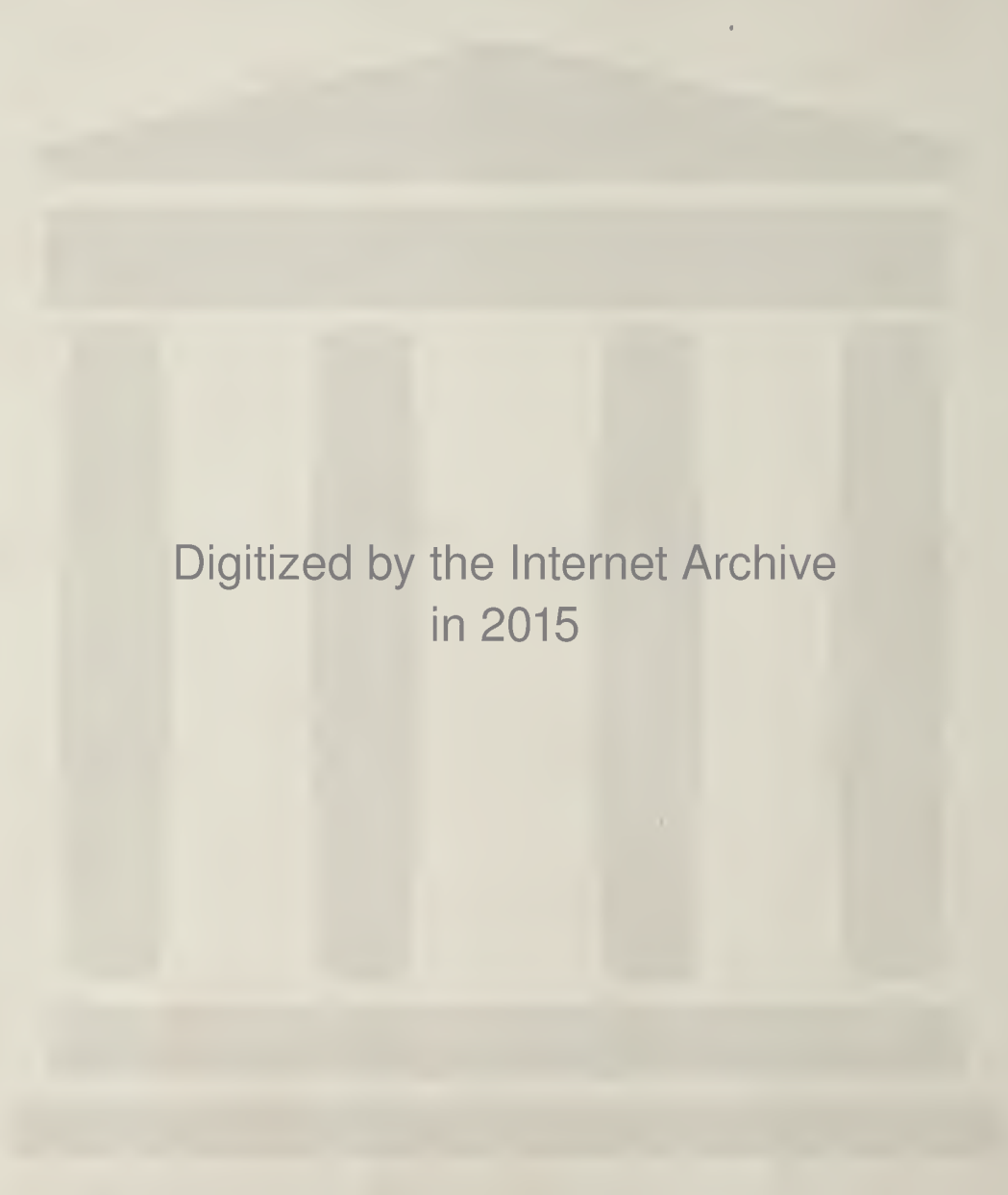


LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1897



I-7



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

https://archive.org/details/chronicleoflond1897lond_1



No. 63.—NEW SERIES.]

MARCH, 1897.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

FOR months past Indian experts have foreseen the terrible suffering now affecting the people of our great Eastern dependency. Monsoons had failed; the rainy season was passing, and yet wide tracts of country had not been refreshed with a single shower; famine was therefore inevitable, and anxious thoughts began to fill many minds. Experience of former famines and haunting reminiscences of most painful scenes taught them what to expect. In other minds visions begotten of cupidity began to shape themselves, and before scarcity had actually set in the native grain dealers lost no time in raising the price of grain. For many weeks now distress has been common; the crisis is reaching the acute stage, and we are informed by Reuter's Special Agency that we are in for "a record famine," more widespread and more direful in its effects than all that have preceded it since India came under British rule; while Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India informs us that the number of people employed on the various relief works organised by the Government had been steadily rising from December onwards, and by February 5th had reached the enormous total of two and a half millions. Startling as such figures are, it must not be overlooked that those at

work are the able-bodied, that they earn a wage which just suffices to keep themselves alive, and leaves little or no margin for the support of their families, and that there are myriads of aged, infirm, and children not included in the above estimate.

Appalling, however, though the distress is, India is so vast and varied that famine is probably never universal. In many provinces rain has fallen abundantly; in others, though late, it came soon enough to avert famine, though not to prevent temporary scarcity. But in the North and North-West, also in certain special districts of the South, and in the Central Provinces, words fail to depict the harrowing sights that meet the eye.

Naturally the thoughts of the Directors of the London Missionary Society have specially turned towards the districts under the care of their own missionaries. The latest reports to hand from the field are certainly brighter and more hopeful than they were. Travancore, the Tamil stations, and the greater part of the Missions in the Madras Presidency, appear to be out of danger of famine, though suffering from scarcity. The missionaries in Bengal have made no appeal. But the distress in the Benares and Mirzapur district, also in country places connected with the Almora Station, is very great, and the Benares District Committee urgently asks for help

for the starving and naked children who are flocking to the Orphanage and schools, also for the Christian workers, and for the large number of suffering poor who besiege the doors of the benevolent begging for relief. The missionaries point out that Benares and Mirzapur, in addition to their present population, are becoming the refuge of thousands of destitute villagers from outlying districts.

In the Telugu country, in the Madras Presidency, also there is great distress, and, as stated by the Foreign Secretary in our last issue, in connection with the Society's Telugu Mission there are about 11,000 native Christians. These will naturally look to our missionaries for help rather than to the Brahmin officials who will have so large a share in the distribution of Government money. The great majority of these Christians are very poor, depending at the best of times upon a scanty daily wage for daily food. They have been without work for many weeks, except such as have been able to earn a scanty daily pittance at the Government relief works, nor have they any chance of getting work until the next rains come. Consequently, they are in sore straits. It is estimated that an expenditure of £50 a day for the next three months will be required adequately to provide for the needs of those who have a special claim on the Society's help.

In consideration of the foregoing facts, the Board, at its meeting on Tuesday, February 9th, passed the following resolution:—

"That whilst heartily approving of the movement to raise a large National Fund for the relief of the starving people of India, and whilst unwilling to do anything that might seem to divide public interest in the matter, the Board still deems it necessary to continue its own special fund for dealing with the crisis. In view especially of the needs of its native agents, of a large native Christian community—many of whom, especially the native agents, it would not be right or kind to send to the ordinary channels for Government relief—and of the much larger number of non-Christian sufferers with whom the Society's missionaries and their assistants are brought into personal contact, the Board would encourage friends of the Society to place at its disposal as large a sum as they can consistently with the more public claim, so as to enable its missionaries adequately to deal with the distress in their own immediate vicinity."



FROM THE ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY.

IN the absence of my colleague, the Rev. R. Wardlaw Thompson, it becomes my duty from month to month to furnish notes on the foreign side of the Society's work. In another column more lengthened reference will be found to the Special Deputation now on its way to Australia and the South Seas; but I may here add that from a Lloyd's telegram we have learned that the s.s. *Gothic*, on board which Mr. Crosfield and Mr. Thompson are passengers, reached Cape Town on Friday morning, February 12th, and left again the same afternoon. Mr. Thompson was thus able to obtain a few hours on shore with his relatives and many friends in that port.

IN the first article of this number the Directors' views respecting the Indian Famine Fund are fully stated, and nothing further is necessary than to announce that up to the date of going to press the amount received at the Mission House for this fund was £1,543 1s. 3d.

IN the February number of the *Journal des Missions Évangéliques*, the official organ of the Paris Missionary Society, a paragraph occurs, which, as far as it goes, is satisfactory. Our Protestant friends in Paris have been greatly moved with indignation at the audacious conduct of the Jesuit missionaries in attempting to obtain by trickery and misrepresentation places of worship raised by Malagasy Protestant Christians. They have not hesitated, in the most bold and trenchant way, to call public attention to this policy of spoliation. MM. Lauga and Krüger, the two delegates to Madagascar, lately returned from their visit to that island, have been most outspoken on the matter, and in the copy of the *Journal* referred to the Editor quotes the reply to their representations to the Minister for the Colonies, received by the Paris Society on January 23rd. In his reply the Minister informs them that by the previous mail he sent out instructions to the Resident-General, prohibiting any such transference of religious buildings. We trust that the instructions will be loyally acted upon, and that Protestant natives of Madagascar will be allowed to retain the buildings which they have raised by their own labour, or with money which they themselves had contributed.

It was indeed high time that such instructions were dispatched, for by a recent mail from Madagascar one of the grossest cases recorded was announced. A missionary of long experience sent a detailed description of what took place on a Sunday morning at a large village under his care some few miles to the east of the capital. The Roman Catholic Bishop (!) appeared at the door of the chapel, accompanied by a few of his followers, and

Marching up to the platform end, requested permission to conduct Catholic service. The evangelist quietly replied that the building was a Protestant place of worship, and that the congregation wished to retain it for their own worship. The Bishop next made a suggestion that the congregation should amalgamate with another Protestant congregation in the neighbourhood, and transfer the building they were then in to the Catholics. To this also a polite but firm refusal was given. Then the Bishop summoned to his aid the Governor of the village, a Romanist, and a bitter persecutor of his Protestant neighbours, and that official peremptorily ordered the congregation to hand over the building to the Catholics. Under protest the evangelist obeyed this authoritative utterance, and with his people retired from the building, the Bishop at once taking possession of it, and conducting service according to the rights of the Catholic Church. By a later mail we learn that two days afterwards French officers affixed a notice to the chapel doors stating that the building now belongs to the Catholics. That the French Republic should allow such things to be done in a country under its rule, is indeed astounding. Even that Jesuit missionaries should stoop to such conduct, notwithstanding the records of that body in the past, is sufficiently startling.

Two items of information are to hand from New Guinea: one that the Rev. James Chalmers has been in great danger on board the beautiful little lugger the *Niue*; the other that the useful little vessel named the *Hanamoa*, or the *Blessing*, has been wrecked. This vessel rendered most valuable service upon the coast of New Guinea, where it was employed mainly for conveying food from the more fertile districts to the sterile portions of the coast, where some of our teachers are stationed. Mr. Chalmers happily escaped without any serious consequences, but the *Hanamoa* became a complete wreck. She left Port Moresby for Motumotu to fetch a cargo of sago, and when off that place—one of the worst along the coast—was caught in a gale. The crew reached the shore in a very exhausted condition, but fortunately no lives were lost. The *Hanamoa* was a small craft of about three or four tons, and was presented to Rev. J. Chalmers some years ago by a gentleman in New Zealand.

PREVIOUS reference has been made in our pages to the "Lockhart Library," the generous and costly gift of the late Dr. Lockhart. The character of the library, which is very comprehensive in its contents, containing as it does books gathered from many countries and unique in character, has already been brought before our readers; but it is necessary to call attention to the effort now being made to raise a fund sufficient to provide a printed catalogue. By means of a catalogue the library will be made useful for Chinese scholars, for students and literary men, and also for the general seeker of missionary lore. The Directors do not care to employ the general funds of the Society for the printing of this catalogue, which, containing as it must do the Chinese titles of books printed in Chinese characters, will necessarily be somewhat expensive; and yet it is highly desirable that the contents of the library should be turned to the best account, which it cannot be unless a catalogue is printed. It is estimated that about £150 will be required to produce one, and towards this amount contributions have already been received

and promised, amounting in all to about one-third of the entire sum. Should any lover of books, or one interested in libraries, or any generous friend of the Society, see this notice and feel disposed to send a cheque towards the cost of producing the catalogue, I shall be very happy to receive the same. I shall also be pleased, should this be desired, to send a leaflet describing in greater detail what has been here given in brief.

MAY I add a word as Editorial Secretary? The only fresh publication of the month is a Welsh pamphlet descriptive of the work of the L.M.S., entitled "Gwaith Y Llaw Agored." The pamphlet is a reprint of an article that appeared in the *Dysgedydd* magazine, written by the Rev. P. Huws, B.D., of Dolgelly. It is intended for gratuitous circulation amongst our Welsh-speaking constituents. Applications (in English) for copies will be promptly attended to.

GEORGE COUSINS.

FROM THE HOME SECRETARY.

DURING the month of January there was a marked improvement in our finances, and I have the satisfaction of reporting that our receipts for general purposes up to the end of last month were £53,045, only £135 less than the amount received during the corresponding period of last year. Legacies, however, are nearly £2,000 behind, the expenditure maintains its advance of £2,000, and we have to meet the adverse balance of £3,365 with which we began the year. Unless, therefore, a still greater improvement appears before the end of March, we shall close the year with a considerable balance on the wrong side. I trust that this more favourable report will put fresh heart into all our collectors and helpers, and that we may have abundant reason for thanksgiving when the year is completed.

LAST month I omitted to report that F. H. Hawkins, Esq., LL.B., of Wrexham, had kindly undertaken to preside at the Children's Demonstration, Exeter Hall, on May 8th. A new departure in this meeting will be a prize competition in decorations for the hall. Intending competitors must send in their work not later than May 1st. We shall also assign parts of the programme to the audience, and issue tickets for reserved portions of the hall to schools, bands, &c., undertaking this service. The Ladies' Meeting on May 11th will be held in Falcon Square Chapel, and will be followed by a public tea and conference. Early application for tickets for the tea (6d. each) is most desirable. Mr. Eugene Stock, of the C.M.S., has kindly promised to speak at the City Temple meeting on May 14th.

THE steady growth of the Children's Missionary Band augurs well for the future. More than £70 have been received during the last three months, and eight new bands have been formed. One of the chief of our many encouragements just now is the growing interest taken in our work by Sunday-schools, Juvenile Auxiliaries, Christian Endeavour Societies, and kindred institutions. The Society does not lack enthusiastic helpers among the young and rising generation. The interest of Sunday-school teachers in our work is very cheering. We have held four large meetings of teachers in the London district at the Mission House, having each evening an hour's social intercourse in the Museum, and devoting two hours to a conference and a missionary address in the Board-room. Hundreds of friends have paid their first visit to our busy home. They will be most welcome if they will come again, especially if they will bring their scholars and friends to see some of the trophies of the Cross won in heathen lands, and help to quicken their zeal by the inspiration of the great past which is our Society's price-less inheritance.

THE recent alterations in the Board-room, without which such meetings would have been impossible, make it necessary to dispose of two long and handsome oak benches, for which purchasers are wanted.

ARTHUR N. JOHNSON.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD.

Board Meeting, January 12th, 1897.—Mr. S. MASSEY in the chair. Number of Directors present, 85.

Farewell was taken of Miss Ethel Turner, daughter of the Rev. G. Lyon Turner, M.A., one of the Directors of the Society, and of the Rev. E. S. Oakley, both of whom are returning to Almora, North India. The Foreign Secretary reminded the Board that Miss Turner had already spent between seven and eight years in experimental work at Rani Khet and Almora as an assistant missionary under the local committee, and was now going out as a fully accredited agent of the Society. The special sympathy of the Directors would be extended to Mr. Oakley on account of the necessity for leaving Mrs. Oakley in this country until the autumn, at least, and on account of the very anxious and responsible work to which he was returning in connection with the deeply interesting Ramsay College. Mr. Thompson then introduced to the Board the Rev. S. L. Gulick, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and a member of a distinguished family in the mission world, who were extensively represented both in Spain and Japan, Mr. Gulick being one of the second generation of missionaries of that family. Speaking of the Society to which he belonged, Mr. Thompson remarked that from the inception of the American Board, the London Missionary Society had had the closest and most fraternal and loving relations with the American Society, which in that country occupies the position inter-denominationally which the London Society does in England. It had distinguished itself by a remarkable succession of strong and able missionaries in every part of the great mission-field which it had taken up. The Chairman, in greeting Mr. Gulick, recalled the fact that he had met him when in Japan four years ago. The magnificent breadth of view and action which American Christians had exhibited in regard to Japan was an inspiration to Christians on this side of the Atlantic, who sympathised greatly with the American Board in the present difficulties of their work in Japan. Mr. Gulick, in responding, reciprocated the cordial feeling between the two Societies, and the inspiration derived by Americans from the work of the London Society. The troubles which had arisen in Japan were, happily, not so excessive as many seemed to think. The large majority of the Japanese Christians were thoroughly evangelical in their belief, and were in thorough sympathy with the work of the American Board. Mr. Oakley and Miss Turner showed by their brief remarks that they are returning to work with renewed consecration. Special prayer was offered by Rev. J. Legge, M.A.

A resolution of condolence with the family and relations of the late Rev. Dr. Herber Evans, and also with the Committee and supporters of the Bala-Bangor College, was passed, the Directors rising from their seats.

Miss A. E. French was appointed to the Papauta Girls' High School, Samoa.

The resignation of Miss Coombs, of Madagascar, in view of her marriage, was accepted.

A letter was read from Mr. D. Ford Goddard, M.P., regretting his inability to accept the invitation of the Board to join the Foreign Secretary in his contemplated visit to Madagascar.

Board Meeting, February 9th, 1897.—Mr. S. MASSEY presided. Number of Directors present, 65.

The Board welcomed the Rev. D. P. Jones, of Central Africa, and Dr. Eliot Curwen, of Peking, who have returned home on account of failure of health. Rev. G. Cousins, Acting Foreign Secretary, in introducing the missionaries, was able to state that in both cases the voyage home and short stay in this country had already had beneficial results.—Rev. D. P. Jones stated that the past year had been a very unhealthy one in Central Africa; but as regards the work of their Mission, they had every reason for encouragement and deep gratitude. The congregations numbered between 700 and 800 men every Sunday, and there were from 150 to 200 children in the schools. Reinforcements were greatly needed.—Dr. Curwen (who was accompanied by Mrs. Curwen) said his enthusiasm in the work of the Society was even keener than it was before he went to China. The Chinese were agnostics, utterly without hope of reformation coming from within themselves, and he longed to do something towards bringing to them what he believed to be the only means of regeneration for them. They had found a knowledge of the Gospel among all grades of society, and they believed that the dawning would not be very long delayed.

The Rev. W. Shadforth, late of Shanghai, met the Directors, and the following resolution was passed by them:—"That the Board, having acceded to the request of the Rev. W. Shadforth, late of Shanghai, to be allowed personally to appear before it, and, having listened patiently to his statements, fails to see that the least injustice has been done to him, and reaffirms its resolution of December 15th, 1896, accepting Mr. Shadforth's resignation."

The Directors passed a resolution of deep sympathy with the relatives of the late William Shaw, Esq., J.P., of Rochdale, "who was for so many years a faithful and ardent friend of the great enterprise of foreign missions."

Mr. W. N. Bitton, of Hackney College, was appointed to succeed Mr. Shadforth at Shanghai; and Mr. John May, B.A., was appointed to the Tanganyika Mission, Central Africa.

The Board accepted offers of service by Mr. V. A. Barradale (of Mansfield College), son of the late Rev. J. S. Barradale, of Tientsin (subject to favourable medical report); Mr. A. E. Jennings, of New College; and Miss M. L. Neal (subject to her passing the usual examination).

The return of Miss Davies to Hong Kong, and of Rev. W. G. Brockway, B.A., to Calcutta, was delayed until the autumn.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE WATCHERS' BAND.

MOST of our members have, no doubt, heard and read with much interest of the appointment, by the Board of Directors, of Mr. Wm. Crosfield and the Foreign Secretary as a deputation to visit our far-away mission-fields in the South Seas and New Guinea, and, as regards Mr. Thompson, Madagascar also. The earnest appeal to Watchers, which was written by Mr. Thompson on the very eve of his departure, and appears on another page, will, I hope, meet with a very hearty and general response. May our dear friends be sustained and encouraged by the consciousness that they are being thus remembered by the

many thousands of our world-wide Band, and through all their journeyings, and in all the work that lies before them, may grace abound to them according to their need.

ERE these notes appear, the Renewal Forms, Revised Lists of Missionaries, and Watchword Cards, for the New Year, should be in the hands of all our members, and I hope that everyone will feel it to be a duty to facilitate the work at headquarters by returning the forms promptly to the Branch Secretaries, and taking care to see that they are properly filled up.

THE addition to the List of Missionaries of a "MISSIONARIES' BIRTHDAY ALMANAC," will, doubtless, be generally welcomed. It will quicken personal interest, and afford opportunity for special remembrance of our dear friends as the birthday anniversary of each comes round. The new Watchword Cards will also, I think, meet with general approval. The watchword for the New Year is, "Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord that thou fulfil it."

I HAD the pleasure recently of reporting the issue of an edition of our Manual in *TELEGU*, which will make all the valuable information contained therein available to so many thousands of our native brethren and sisters, and help them to more definite, intelligent, and earnest prayer. For the translation of this we are indebted to the Rev. W. W. and Mrs. Stephenson, of Gooty, and, for the labour involved in the publication, to our devoted General Secretary for the South India Division, the Rev. R. J. Ward, of Madras.

I HAVE at this time the further pleasure to report the publication of a *BENGALI* edition of the Manual, and hope, now that this preliminary work has been accomplished, the missionaries at all our India stations will do their best to extend the movement, and be encouraged by an advance all along the line. Our thanks are due to the General Secretary of the North India Division, the Rev. A. W. Young, of Calcutta, for the able service that he has rendered in connection with the publication of this edition, and also especially to the Rev. T. K. Chatterji, pastor of the Bhowanipur Congregational Church, and to G. Babu Gopal C. Dutt, for the time and thought they have so kindly and willingly given in its translation and revision, and for the accuracy of their work.

It is acknowledged that the W.B. is doing much to solve the problem of how to quicken and maintain living missionary interest in our churches; the continuous extension of the movement and the gathering of fresh adherents should, therefore, be cherished as a primary object by all who have the best interests of our Society at heart, and especially by all our Branch Secretaries, and by every member. There is stimulus, too, in the remembrance that with so large a number of churches not yet represented in our lists, and so many church members who have not yet joined the ranks of the Watchers, there is scope and need for our most strenuous efforts.

JAMES E. LIDDIARD.

NEW BRANCHES. COUNTRY.

Branch.	COUNTRY.	Secretary.
Birmingham (Ebenezer) ...	...	Mr. W. Thompson.
Great Yarmouth ...	...	Miss M. Arnold.
Manchester (Stretford) ...	...	Mr. G. H. Lee.
Manchester (Melbourne Street) ...	...	{ Miss H. Stanley.
Walthamstow (Trinity) ...	...	{ Mr. G. W. Petts.
		Miss K. E. Doyle.

IN MEMORIAM.

THE LATE MRS. ROBINSON, OF SALEM.

MRS. ROBINSON was a missionary from her girlhood. She and Mr. Robinson were engaged to each other before he was sent from Queen Street Chapel, Sheffield, to Rotherham College for the express purpose of preparing for missionary work, his idea being that every worker ought to go abroad unless he had special reasons for staying at home. Her engagement committed her to such service as her future husband might enter upon. The outlook was desirable in her eyes, and she loyally gave her utmost assistance to realise it in fact.

There were serious obstacles in the state of her health,



and not until October, 1880, about three years after Mr. Robinson had begun work, was she able to join him. She had early selected her sphere, for before leaving England she had secured as much training as possible in the art of teaching children. At Tripatore she helped to develop the work in the girls' school and among the women of the town.

When Mr. Robinson came to Salem, in 1884, his wife took charge of the two girls' schools and the mothers' meeting, and later on she began work among the non-Christian female population. The children enjoyed a warm place in her heart, and her success among them was great and encouraging.

In both her homes, Tripatore and Salem, she took great interest in the Eurasian population, made herself the friend of many, and ministered to them as she was able. One of her great pleasures was to provide a treat every Christmas for the children of this neglected class.

But her first concern was always to be the helper of her husband by strengthening, upholding, and cheering him. To keep him fit for his work was her work; and so well did she do it that we have heard him say she enabled him to double himself. A capable woman of affairs, and having no family, she relieved him of every burden she could take from his shoulders. He was unencumbered with needless details and cares, and could be his best and do his best. One of his delights has been to go into camp, preaching in the villages, getting at people where they live—not a tempting kind of work for a lady to share in, but from which Mrs. Robinson did not shrink. For fourteen years she marched and camped with him over the district, was jolted over rough roads in springless carts, yet always making the best of it, feeling that the longer she kept out the longer he would. Her management of the expenses enabled him one year to travel 180 days for 250 rupees. On these journeys she always insisted on paying out of savings from her housekeeping money her full share of the cost. She would never use the Mission as a convenience, but would pinch to assist it.

It was a wonder to those who knew her that her health was so good in India; but the explanation may partly have been that she loved the work and the people. At the end of 1895 it was very poor, and the search for improvement on the hills was not successful. Mr. Robinson wrote to a friend in August, 1896:—"Our furlough is not due for two years, and we are both most unwilling to anticipate it; but if necessity does arise there will be no alternative left but a change home." Mrs. Robinson became a great sufferer from blood poisoning, caused by the sting or bite of some venomous insect, and at the end of the year it was necessary to try the last chance. In November she began to make arrangements for leaving for England, and on December 14th Mr. Robinson left for Madras to engage their passage home. The following day he was recalled by telegram only to see her sink away. She had messages for dear ones at home, and in her heart was the desire that she might die on a Sunday, and that Rev. Maurice Phillips might take her funeral service. And so it turned out. She died on Sunday, December 20th, and Mr. Phillips buried her. Her spirit was stayed on God's Word in Psalm xli. and John xiv.

Mr. Phillips says that "her heart's desire was the salvation of the sons and daughters of India," and Mr. Dignum, Mr. Robinson's fellow-labourer, says that nearly all the native Christians and most of the European residents attended her funeral. At the memorial service the large congregation sang her three favourite hymns as they had never sung them before. Her sixteen years of work will live after her; but, as the Foreign Secretary of our Society said to the Directors, her loss will be sorely felt.

J. P. GLEDSTONE.

AMONG THE RICE-FIELDS.

WE started from Bhowanipore, Mr. Le Quesne and I, in a ghari. A ghari is a two-horse conveyance, something like our London growlers, but rougher-looking and possessing far greater capacity for jolting and swinging jerkily from side to side. It was a Saturday morning, and our destination was Kaurapukur, which is a village some five or six miles south of Calcutta. Here lives Rev. Kalipada Banerji, who, with Mr. Le Quesne, superintends the work in the rice-fields and in the Sunderbunds. I should like you to meet him—a Christian gentleman, speaking English fluently and well, throwing himself with energy and wisdom into the important work entrusted to him, and liked and respected by the villagers. We passed through Bhowanipore with its dirty streets, teeming population, and small native houses and shops; past Kulighat, the celebrated Hindu temple; across the Talygunge Bridge, and so on into the country, jolting and bumping over the Kaurapukur road. One coming fresh from England misses the familiar hedges and trees, but there is plenty of vegetation, and tall palms of various kinds, tropical trees, creeping and climbing plants, bamboos and jungle, make up a pleasant enough picture to the eye tired of city sights and streets.

An hour's drive brings us to Kaurapukur, and we find the manse larger and better built than the other houses, standing in a garden in which, not art, but nature holds sway. Mr. Banerji comes smilingly out to greet us, and says all is ready for a start.

We go across the road to the khal, or small natural canal running past Kaurapukur into the rice-fields. On one side of the village landing-place is the dock for the *Tara*, the fine new mission-boat used for work on the Isamutty. The dock is merely dug out of the bank, and into it the *Tara* can be floated at high water. She is pretty constantly used, however, in the cooler part of the year by parties of evangelists visiting the Sunderbund villages. At the landing-place three or four shaltis, or punts, are tied up. Ours was flat-bottomed, about ten feet long, and less than two broad. Three wicker footstools, placed on the bottom of the shalti, served as seats.

Carefully we stepped off the clayey bank and took our seats, and when the crew had embarked we were thankful that no one of our party was of Pickwickian build, as not only would he have found it difficult to accommodate himself to the width of the boat, but would have gone far to sinking her, as, being overloaded, she was decidedly low in the water. Our crew was made up of two natives, shiny, brown-skinned, and scraggy, each dressed in a cotton loin-cloth (once white), and carrying a long bamboo. They punted along, pulling their bamboos out of the mud with a jerk when they stuck, somehow keeping their own balance and the boat's, and asking, when the water came over the boat's side and she only just recovered herself, and we remonstrated: "Of what are you afraid?" The rascals!



HOUSE IN THE RICE-FIELDS.



[BAMBOO BRIDGE.]

wetting to them would be rather refreshing than otherwise.

The khal banks were high, and so we could not see much of the scenery until we got out and walked, being rather cramped with our unusual positions in the shalti. The country is quite flat, with long stretches of rice-field, relieved by clumps of palm-trees, marking the position of villages. There was plenty to look at. Now other shaltis would pass us; now we would meet a party of women trotting along the bank carrying their goods on their heads to market; now it was a man grubbing about in the mud at the bottom of the khal for small fish; now a man fishing with a kind of net I had never seen before; now we passed a cluster of huts, and paused to see four or five oxen, tied to a post, walking round in a circle, and treading out the rice, or to watch women husking or beating it out. As we passed one house a poor old couple, both of them withered, bent, and very thin, came running after us to tell Mr. Banerji how someone had cheated them out of some little property they possessed, and to ask him for medicine, as both were ill. Mr. Banerji not only preaches and superintends, but he is also the medical adviser to a good number of people in the rice-fields. At this season of the year the rice-fields are flooded to the depth of a few inches, and the channels, which are deeper, run to the various villages.

The whole scene was bathed in bright sunshine. On each side of us stretched the rice-fields, with here and there the islands marked by clusters of palms. Men were reaping the harvest. Wading in the shallow water, they cut down the rice and tied it into sheaves, which they left floating on the water to be picked up by shaltis, which take the place of our harvest wagons in England.

Now we passed between two islands, with the trees meeting over our heads, and the women and children come out of their mud huts to have a look at the "padres," as missionaries are styled out here; whilst half-wild, lean dogs stand and yelp at us. Again we came upon three or four brown little maidens fishing with basket-nets made of bamboo, up to their knees in the water, and not troubled with a superfluity of clothing.

There is continually something fresh to interest or amuse. After about three hours' journey, and after passing a fair number of villages, we approach Gangrai. We pass up a channel underneath trees, and so come to our haven, a shady pool overgrown with water plants, in which are moored three or four other boats.

We land and go up to the chapel, where the catechist and teacher soon join us. Poor chapel! Once it knew better days. It was built of burnt bricks, and had a room over it for the accommodation of missionary visitors, lady or gentleman. Now the room has been done away with, the brickwork is principally noticeable by its absence, and the thatched roof, itself in a bad condition, is resting practically upon the corner posts, for there is little wall in between

them. The people are bestirring themselves now to repair the chapel, but they are very poor and cannot give much, as a man's average salary here is six rupees (about seven and sixpence) a month! They will be able to get very little, or, rather, no help from our Bengal Auxiliary, as, owing to the large reduction in grants caused by the Society's enforced policy of retrenchment, the Auxiliary has enough to do to meet those expenses which are absolutely necessary. As I get to know more about the work here I begin to realise how far-reaching are the results of the "Halt!" called at home, and how every portion of the work, both in the great centres and in the outlying districts, is more or less crippled.

The teacher and catechist bring us cocoanuts, and open them with a small hatchet, and we find the milk very refreshing after our long boat ride in the sun. The men are out harvesting, but a group of little brown girls and boys soon gather, and watch our proceedings with evident interest. Some of the girls are pretty little things, and shyly peep at us from behind cloths drawn half over their faces. The women are busy about the huts, and some have been beating out and husking rice, which is lying in heaps on mats in the sun.

Mr. Banerji points out things of interest and answers plenty of questions, so that our tour through the little village is full of interest. The life of these village folk seems very quiet and simple, but it is very narrow, and here, as elsewhere, those passions and sins, which only yield to the Christ-power, hold sway and rule.

There is a school carried on by the teacher, a bright-looking, intelligent young fellow, who may, perhaps, come later to our Institution here as a theological student. Otherwise the children grow up in utter ignorance, their education consisting in learning to catch fish with net and trap, to manage a shalti, and to sow and reap rice. The number of Christians is small, but they meet from Sunday to Sunday in their little village chapels, the service being conducted by the catechist, and Mr. Banerji takes the villages in turn, holding the Communion service when he comes, conducting weddings and baptisms, settling difficulties and disputes amongst the flock, and generally keeping an eye on the work and consulting with Mr. Le Quesne when necessary.

The catechist and teacher, who must sometimes feel lonely and discouraged, seemed very much pleased with our visit; whilst I, on my part, felt at leaving that I had gained some little insight into the manner of life amongst these people, and should in future be able to take a more intelligent interest in the work in the rice-field villages.

JAS. H. BROWN.



A VISIT TO TING CHOW FU, AMOY.

BY REV. FRANK P. JOSELAND.

NEARLY the whole of the Fukien province of China is now brought under the influence of the Gospel. The more northern half is worked from Foochow by one English society, the C.M.S., and by two American societies, the A.B.C.F.M. and the M.E.M. The southern half is worked from Amoy by two English missions, our own (L.M.S.) and the English Presbyterian, and by an American (Presbyterian) mission. Out of the nine prefectural cities in the province, foreign missionaries are living in all but one, and this one is the subject of this article, Ting Chow Fu. It lies off the main track, due west of Amoy, and is only reached by a long road journey of more than 200 miles over a mountainous country. Within these ranges of mountains the dialects differ widely, most of them utterly unlike the Amoy dialects, and approximating in some cases to the Hakka dialects of Northern Kwang-Tung, and others being more allied to the Mandarin dialect. There is a river running through the city, which eventually finds its way into the sea near Swatow, but it is hardly navigable in its upper reaches. For these reasons the city and district have been left alone very much, and but for occasional visits of colporteurs to sell Gospels and tracts, no Christian work has been done until very recently.

But five years ago, when our Amoy Congregational Union determined upon a Forward Movement, this region was chosen as the scene of its new work. From the first it has been chiefly a native affair, and, while many of us missionaries and other friends have contributed largely to the available funds, all the actual workers have been Chinese native Christians. The Thaisan Church in Amoy very generously gave up its pastor to act as the superintendent, and last year he resigned entirely his connection with the Amoy Church that he might devote his whole time to the

Ting Chow work. The troubles in Huian, however, needing careful investigation, Mr. Sadler requested him to go round all the Huian churches with him during the month of October. It was, therefore, thought advisable for a foreign missionary to take the opportunity of visiting the regions in order to ascertain what progress had already been made.

So, in company with Mr. Johnson, of the Scottish National Bible Society, I left at the end of September to see for myself how things were getting on. We went by way of Enghok and Lengna, both places where we have chapels. Beyond Lengna the country is mountainous but beautifully wooded, forests of pine and fir and bamboo

lining the hills on both sides of the road. Indeed, I may say that the farther inland one goes the more beautiful does the country become, reminding one of Wales and Scotland, but without any lakes. In two days (about forty miles) we got to our first station, Bio Cheng, a prosperous market town in the centre of a small open plain among the hills. Here we have a church of seventeen male members with about fifty adherents, as well as a school for boys, with a Sinchai as teacher. The preacher is a Huian man, and has had to learn the dialect, which is utterly unlike our Amoy dialects. He has his wife with him, and, though by no means a clever scholar, has so much Christian love and sanctified common sense that already the people cling to him most tenaci-

ously, and will not hear of any change being made. He and many members came out a mile or so to meet us the day we were due to arrive, and were most delighted to welcome us. Both on our first visit, and when I returned nine days later, they loaded us with gifts (eggs, fowls, pume-loes, a duck and a rabbit), being very anxious to do honour to the foreign teacher. I took several services, and had, of course, to be interpreted by the preacher, who did it very well. We also got the people to choose two deacons, and the preacher told me afterwards that he thought the two chosen were decidedly the best fitted for the office. They



also have begun to subscribe funds for church purposes, and next year have promised two dollars per month towards the preacher's salary. Thus early do we start our members on the self-supporting line. I was also very pleased with the evident heartiness and unity of the members. Many already help at the evening worship, and they have started two week-night prayer-meetings and a Saturday night experience meeting, all of which are well attended. At a large village some twenty miles away, where a hearer lives, who has willingly opened his house for Sunday services and week-night meetings, five of the members take turns from week to week in conducting these services. This may lead eventually to a chapel being permanently opened here with a fixed preacher.

The preacher's wife, too, is working hard among the women, and not in vain. Some twenty to thirty come every Sunday to worship, and she visits them in their homes during the week. As the fashion of small feet does not prevail in this region, women can get about more readily, and, indeed, they work in the fields and carry burdens as easily as the men. They seem, perhaps as a consequence of this, to be brighter and less stupid than their small-footed sisters in the Amoy region.

After a day or so at Bio Cheng we went on to Ho-tien, another fifty miles further on, through glorious scenery, well wooded and watered, until within a few miles of Ho-tien. The last pass over a high range of hills gave us a remarkable view of the plain in which it stands, quite a contrast, however, from the magnificent scenery we had just passed through. Nothing but a series of low, red sandstone hills, with very little vegetation and few trees, save where water was to be found. This district is therefore poorer than Bio Cheng, and our work there has been more up-hill. At Ho-tien there are three male members, six waiting for baptism, and about another thirty hearers, including quite a number of women. We have a boys' school here with fifteen students, and a Sinchai as teacher, now a good earnest Christian. Many of the boys, though children of heathen parents, have learnt all the hymns and have a great deal of Christian knowledge, and we may hope in a few years' time some of them may become church members. The preacher here, too, has won his way to the hearts of the people more by love than mere ability, though he has learnt to speak the dialect fairly well. On the Sunday we were there, after morning service (when I had again to use the preacher as my interpreter), I carefully examined four candidates for church fellowship. I gave each man about a quarter of an hour, and in every case was agreeably surprised at the clearness and heartiness of their replies. They had been not only well grounded in Christian doctrine, but had witnessed a good confession amidst persecution and difficulties, so that I could not help feeling thankful to God for such evident proofs of the working of His Holy Spirit in their midst.

The hindrances at Ho-tien have been greater than at Bio Cheng, and hence the smaller number, yet the Gospel has here overcome all obstacles, and proved itself once again in the hands of feeble instruments the power of God unto salvation.

Here, too, for a year or so, a young Chinese doctor—son of one of our oldest preachers—trained in the Amoy Community Hospital, has been at work as a Christian physician, distributing medicine, and helping also in the preaching and teaching. I was inclined to fear lest the experiment would not succeed, but am very glad to have seen with my own eyes how much good he is doing. We went on from Ho-tien to the prefectural city, Ting Chow Fu itself, taking with us this young doctor, with his case of medicines, and also the school-teacher. The city is only twelve miles away along an easy road, which passes through a gradually improving country until the fertile plain in which the city lies is reached.

We stayed at a fairly decent inn, and were well treated. All who came to see us were cordially welcomed, and all the time we were there a constant stream of visitors made their way up to our rooms. Some came to consult the doctor, others to have a look at the foreigners, some to inquire what we wanted, and a few to ask if we were not going to open a hospital and chapel in the town. When we first tried to open work in the city four years ago, we were ordered to move out by the Mandarins. They did not understand our motives, and, perhaps, the first native workers who went there were a little indiscreet. Now, as a result of my careful investigations, after many talks with a number of the influential people of the place, I am quite convinced that the way is open for our re-entering the city. The name and fame of the young doctor has reached the city from Ho-tien, and I got him to stay there for a week, as I was obliged to leave on the Wednesday. I only hope the money and men may be quickly forthcoming, so that we may be able to seize the present opportunity and begin definite Christian work in this city, the last large city of the Fukien province to be claimed for Christ.

It is the natural inheritance of our Amoy London Mission, as the other sections of the Amoy field are already taken possession of by the English Presbyterians and by the American Mission. We have no other line of outgrowth or progress save in this direction, and it follows on quite naturally from the North River work.

The Hohocoy churches are doing their part both with money and men, but the work ought not to be left entirely either to a native pastor as superintendent or to the occasional visit of one of us Amoy missionaries.

The Fu controls eight counties, each with its county town, and, though the whole district is mountainous, each part is easily reached from the Fu city, as it lies in the centre. Moreover, the dialects differ so much that it needs missionaries to begin learning, in the special dialects, or in

Mandarin, rather than to learn the Amoy dialect. I could not understand more than a few words in a hundred, so very different are the sounds and pronunciation from our Amoy language.

There are many hopeful points, however, about work in this region.

1. There is hardly any reliance on foreign power or prestige, such as is too common in many places.

2. The people seem friendly and open-hearted, less suspicious and hostile. There has been opposition, but largely from ignorance, and already this is giving way, in the places where work has begun, to acknowledgment of the purity of our motives.

3. The people are better educated; more men and women can read than is the case in the Amoy region, so that gospels and tracts sell well, and the hearers soon learn the hymns and to read the Bible intelligently.

4. Work among the women is facilitated by their large feet and the ease with which they can get about and come to the services.

5. Already the distribution of ordinary medicines is paving a way for the hospital work, and is abolishing the usual prejudices against foreign medicines.

Let me conclude by asking all who may read these halting lines to remember this native missionary work in their prayers, that God may richly bless the labours of the native pastor and his band of preachers and colporteurs, that all the Christians may be earnest and steadfast men of prayer and of the Holy Ghost; that the young churches may grow in numbers and in godliness, and that before long the home churches may fulfil the promise of the Forward Movement by sending a doctor and a missionary to superintend the work.

NEWS FROM OUR STATIONS.

PERSONAL NOTES.

CHINA.—Dr. and Mrs. Davenport, Miss Wylie, Rev. T. Howard Smith, Dr. A. D. Peill, and Miss Smith have safely reached their various destinations, and are entering upon their work with great hopefulness.—Mrs. Dr. King has returned from a six weeks' visit to Nanking, where she has been in professional attendance upon Li Hung Chang's only daughter. Mrs. King appears to be in better health.

INDIA.—Now that Miss Stephenson has sufficiently recovered from her very dangerous illness, it is thought advisable that she should return to England to seek further restoration of strength.—The Rev. E. and Mrs. Lewis reached Bellary, from Australia, on December 19th. Their son, the Rev. E. H. Lewis, who had preceded them by a few days, wrote, after his arrival from England:—"The native Christians arranged a regular ceremony at the station to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Lewis. Considerable crowds were there. A band was hired to play them in. As soon as they got out of the train they were garlanded, and asked to

sit on two chairs placed on a piece of carpet, that they might listen to an address of welcome read by a native non-Christian gentleman, and signed by several others as well as by Christians. After this they were led home in state, in a carriage drawn by a pair of horses, lent by a non-Christian, and preceded by the band. The significant and interesting part of this performance was that a very considerable number of Hindus united with the Christians in it."

AFRICA.—When the Rev. J. Tom Brown wrote from Kuruman on January 12th, all the Europeans and Boers at that place were in laager at the Moffat Institution, as a protection against a possible attack by rebel Bathapings; but he did not anticipate any personal danger.

MADAGASCAR.—The Farafangana Mission has sustained a serious loss, and Mr. Collins a severe pecuniary loss, in the destruction of one of the mission-houses by fire. A conflagration broke out in the native quarter on the night of November 7th. "I was at Ankarana at the time," writes Mr. Collins, "but returned as soon as possible, and, on arrival, found that a few inches depth of white ash, and a mass of burnt and twisted iron, represented almost all that had been my own house and outbuildings, and that very little indeed remained of our furniture and effects." The loss called out the sympathy of the native and foreign community in a remarkable degree. This fire, and others which have occurred lately in the town and district, were the outcome of lawlessness. Rajonah, the Governor died a few days afterwards, and his decease means the withdrawal of most of the few remaining Christian Hovas. A dreadful boat tragedy a few weeks before cost the lives of two of the best native workers in the Mission, and the church had four members widowed at one blow. "Most of our native and Betsileo teachers and evangelists have abandoned us," adds Mr. Collins, "and in place of the seventy to eighty schools we once possessed, we have only six, with perhaps a total of 100 scholars. To all intents and purposes the work must be restarted again."

SOUTH SEAS.—The Rev. A. E. Hunt has reached Sydney from New Guinea, on his way to this country, but it has been considered desirable to detain him in Australia for conference with the Special Deputation.—Upon the last visit of the *John Williams* to the Hervey Group, there were on board more missionaries in the service of the Society than had left Sydney in one vessel during the last twenty-five years. Mr. Hutchin and colleagues were pleased to welcome them to Rarotonga on the occasion of the local Centenary meeting (referred to elsewhere). Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence had returned from furlough, and Mr. and Mrs. Cullen from a health trip, while there were also on board Mr. J. H. Holmes, of New Guinea, on a health trip, and Messrs. A. B. Wookey and J. H. Morley, on their way to Samoa. On Sunday, November 15th, they were all engaged preaching the Gospel in the three largest villages. The people at Avarua were much interested in what Mr. Holmes had to tell them of the self-sacrifice of the Rarotongan teachers under his charge. He particularly mentioned Taka and Taaviri, and spoke very highly of their work. On arrival at Leulumoega, Mr. Wookey visited the High School, of which he is to have charge during Mr. Hills' absence on furlough. He considers that Mr. Hills has good reason for being proud of the school building which his boys have erected under his supervision.

PORTRAIT GALLERY.

3.—REV. J. DUTHIE,
OF NAGERCOIL, TRAVANCORE.

WE give this month the portrait of the Rev. James Duthie, of Nagercoil, who for forty-one years has been a devoted missionary of the Society. Mr. Duthie was born at Stonehaven, N.B., in 1833, and in 1856 was ordained and appointed to work in Madras. Two years later he married Miss Lea, sister of the Rev. W. K. Lea, who was at that time a missionary in Amoy. In 1859 Mr. Duthie was removed to Nagercoil, to take charge of the Seminary there. Both he and Mrs. Duthie have worked most successfully in the many and varied branches of the Mission which have sprung up since that year. The Girls' Boarding School and the Boys' Home, both of which are intended specially for the benefit of the Christians in the district; the Christian College; the Training Class for Village Teachers; the seventy-eight village schools, besides the very extensive Zenana and industrial work for women, all bear witness to the loving and faithful zeal of Mr. and Mrs. Duthie. This latter work especially gives much cause for thankfulness and encouragement. Last year there was an increase in every department. Three additional Bible-women were employed, and 126 more women came under instruction in the zenanas. With the help of 31 Zenana teachers and Bible-readers, Mrs. Duthie

and her colleagues have had the joy of taking the "glad tidings" to 69 towns and villages, and by these means more than 16,000 have, at least, heard it, and 1,100 of them have been regularly visited and taught in their houses. There was one village—Pooteri by name, about three miles from Nagercoil—which was sunk in gross ignorance and superstition. Many efforts had been

made to reach and help the women living there, but the head man of the village was bitterly opposed to Christianity, and utterly refused to admit a teacher. But by prayer and waiting this closed door has now been opened, and already many women are being taught there, and the little school contains some fifty scholars, one of whom is the daughter of the head man.

A beautiful little reading-room was opened about two years ago in Nagercoil, close to a largely attended market; it occupies the site of a police station, where, in earlier years, great cruelties were practised. A clock tower, too, adorns the town—the gift of His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore, who presented a thousand rupees to Mr. Duthie for



THE REV. J. DUTHIE, OF NAGERCOIL, TRAVANCORE.

its purchase. The Maharajah, with his chief officers of state, attended the opening ceremony, and was received at the Mission House by the missionaries. Mr. and Mrs. Duthie have the co-operation and help of two of their daughters, one of whom is married to the Rev. A. L. Allan, one of the Society's missionaries in Nagercoil. Another daughter recently married Mr. Harold Wills M.A., B.Sc., honorary lay missionary in Trevandrum.

WOMAN'S WORK



AMONG THE LEPERS.

I SHOULD like to tell you of Mrs. Hockett's "Lepers' Settlement" at Iléna. One morning I went out with Mrs. Hockett to see the Lepers. The Settlement is about four miles away from Fianarantsoa and built in the heart of hills—I might say mountains. It has not been opened very long, for it was not until Mr. and Mrs. Hockett returned from their furlough in England that the building was arranged for. A most lovely place has been chosen and as much as possible done in order to make life pleasant for these poor suffering ones.

The cottages are made far more comfortable than are most native houses, and there is an extensive piece of ground used as a garden, in which those who are not incapacitated by the dreadful ravages of disease take a lively interest.

The Settlement consists of five cottages and a small chapel.

The number of rooms in the cottages is twenty-one, and at present there are twenty-three lepers living in them, and a Malagasy caretaker and his wife have the charge of them.

Leprosy has not attacked them all in the same way. Some of them are covered nearly all over with putrefying sores, but the more general form of the disease is that of gradual decaying away of the limbs. Many of the poor people have partly or altogether lost their feet. One poor girl's feet have decayed away from the ankles, and her hands from the wrists, yet she was quite cheerful, and hobbled about after us from cottage to cottage talking about the little chickens which they have at the Settlement.

In the chapel a short service is held every morning, and there, too, those who are able to learn are taught to read the Bible. The walls of the building are made bright with Bible pictures and illuminated texts. The first of these latter that I saw on entering was: "Andriamanitra no fitiavana"—"God is Love," and it does seem that where there is so much terrible suffering no effort should be left untried to make all know of that great love that alone can take away the bitterness from the pain and loneliness of these poor afflicted ones.

Good food and the home shelter do much to alleviate, but also the Gospel is being constantly preached to them, and many have confessed "Faith in Christ" and been received as members of His Church.—*Part of a letter from Miss F. Hare.*

VILLAGE WOMEN FOR CHRIST.

MY three helpers and I have had busy, regular work all the year. Since August, a fourth has come, the wife of the catechist, Benjamin. She was a teacher with me in Benares, and had been for years in our Mission there. I was very glad to have her again on my staff. Another, also, of my first teachers will be coming shortly, as the wife of a young catechist my brother has, from our Mission in Almora. Then my convert of two years ago is to come and begin some work under an experienced teacher. Martha has been in our Mirzapur Orphanage all the last year, and

has made 'good' progress—Miss Hewlett, thinks, she² may make a useful teacher. I have great cause for thankfulness in that God is sending me such good, capable women to help, and be really the chief means of bringing these village women to Christ. The houses for my women workers and inquirers are well on the way, and will be finished, I hope, by the New Year. Apart from the need for the Mission, I am glad that this work is going on now; it gives employment to many needy ones, and at better pay than they could now command among their own people. We hope to go into camp to-morrow, to start our workers at the new station "Palhaipati." Then, after Christmas, we are planning for a tour in the district.

My brother will, no doubt, tell you about the Christian Endeavour Society we have started among our workers. We hope it may be a great help to all and to the work.

We have had the Rev. R. Burgis staying with us—the new Sunday-school missionary for India. He caught measles in the house where he stayed at Allahabad, and was laid aside here. While he was in quarantine here we showed him a good deal of the work. We much enjoyed his visit.

I have been pleased and encouraged lately to see how much more friendly the people are. The Mangari houses are more open to us, and the school has greatly improved. In the Sunday-school nearly as many women as children come now. In Pindra, where we opened with the New Year, the people are changed a good deal, and for the better. But the school has been very disappointing. It opened with a flourish, but some horrid reports were spread about us wanting to entice the children away, &c., which nearly emptied the school at once. But we hope it will improve again.

There is a good deal of distress everywhere. To-day, we are having good rain, after many months without a drop. The people will be delighted.

Mangari.

ROSE M. THEOBALD.

"A WIDOW'S GLEANINGS."

A FEW months ago there died in Brixham a poor old widow whose love for missions induced her to practise acts of self-denial which must often have won the loving approval of Him who watched the widow dropping her gift into the treasury.

I am told that the old woman's interest in foreign missions was roused in consequence of her son having been brought to Christ through the influence of a lady missionary somewhere abroad. The mother's heart went out in love to all missionaries, and, though exceedingly poor, she began to consider what she could do to help them; and one night, being unable to sleep, she was thinking about it, and suddenly decided what to do. "I will have a missionary-

box," said she, and at once she got out of bed to look for a box suitable for her purpose. She found a small cardboard box, wrote on it some appropriate text (my informant could not tell me what), and cut a slit in the lid for the coppers to go in.

The missionary-box was now provided, but how about contributions for it? Well, that difficulty was soon solved also, for the old woman kept a very small shop, in which she sold a few loaves of bread and some other little things, and she decided that the first penny taken every day should go into the box. Sixpence a week from a poor old soul like that, and yet many will not afford even one penny a week!

This large-hearted friend was not satisfied with even that (for *her*) large sum, and she tried to think of some other means of getting money. She then thought that she might be able to get a little discount off her bills when she paid those who supplied the small wares for her shop, and she was agreeably surprised to find how often she obtained this now, though she had not done so before. "It is the Lord's money," she said, so it all went into the box. Possibly she put other money in, and customers and friends may have dropped in an occasional coin, but in one way and another that precious cardboard box became very heavy, and every year for nine or ten years, when the missionary-boxes were called in, this one was found to contain three and four pounds, which noble sum was entered in the list of contributions as "A Widow's Gleanings."

This year the list will be made up without it, for the dear old woman has gone home to hear the "Well done" of the Master.

Oh, that many who read this simple account may be moved by this old woman's example to make greater sacrifices for God's work in foreign countries! Hundreds of those who read the CHRONICLE could have a box and put in at least a penny a day, in addition to the donation given at a missionary meeting or the annual subscription, and we should then hear less about "deficit" and "retrenchment." "She hath done what she could." "Go thou and do likewise."

M. T. BLISS.

ECHOES FROM THE HOME CHURCHES.

THE tide of missionary enthusiasm and spirit in the Trinity Congregational Church, Bridlington Quay (pastor, Rev. Martin Smit), is continuing to rise. As an evidence of this the treasurer has been able to send in £27 7s. to the funds of the London Missionary Society.

MR. THOMAS RUTHERFORD, a Director of the Society, representing Abney Congregational Church, Stoke Newington, has taken an opportunity of tracing the contributions made by that church to the L.M.S. during the past fifty years. He finds that £6,523 9s. 4d. (less expenses) have been paid in, or an average of about £130 per year.

LETTERS FROM REV. R. WARDLAW THOMPSON.

DEAR FELLOW-WATCHERS,—I am glad to have an opportunity of saying a few words to you before I start on my long journey amongst some of the missions which are so constantly in your thoughts, and give such pleading tenderness and importunity to your prayers because they are so close to your hearts.

My companion, Mr. Crosfield, and I are just starting on a commission which involves serious responsibilities, and which will require not only the exercise of such business capacity as we may possess, but also especially constant spiritual wakefulness and earnestness, wisdom and grace, that our special ministry may be one of real and lasting blessing to all whom we are to visit.

We are to be the representatives and the messengers of the churches, and we shall need the whole moral and spiritual force of the churches at our back if we are to fulfil our commission with profit.

To whom can we appeal to remember the errand upon which we are going, and to sustain us in our ministry, unless it be to those who have pledged themselves to prayer and watching?

Rest assured that your faithfulness in carrying out your blessed agreement will do more to ensure the success of our journey than anything else.—
Yours very truly,

R. WARDLAW THOMPSON.



MR. WILLIAM CROSFIELD, J.P.

from Mr. Thompson, written on the s.s. *Gothic*, on January 28th. Mr. Thompson says: "We expect to reach Santa Cruz about 6 p.m. to-day, so everyone that can hold a pen is writing as if life depended on it. Some of them began before breakfast, and now the reading-room is full of them. They have overflowed with pads and writing-boards on to the deck, and some of us modest fellows have had to take refuge in the saloon. The enclosures I send you will show

that this is not my first effort in this direction. In fact, I feel rather proud of myself for the work I have done. Not only have I written a pile of notes, but I have most carefully analysed all the New Guinea estimates for seven years, &c., &c. I should post you them from Teneriffe, but I am a little doubtful about the certainty and safety of Spanish postal arrangements, so I shall send them back from the Cape.

"We have had a very pleasant voyage so far. We did not leave Plymouth until 7.50 on Sunday morning. It was bitterly cold, but fine, and it has been fine ever since. The cold, however, has rapidly been melting away, and we are beginning to come out in the butterfly finery of the tropics. I am rather disgusted with the present position of affairs, for the captain says we shall not arrive at Santa Cruz until 6 p.m., and as there are rumours of small-pox there, he

doubts if any of us will be allowed to go ashore.

"This is a splendid ship, but rather too full for much comfort. Many of the cabins are small, and all of them are full. I am profoundly thankful I secured my small den all to myself. I don't know what I should have done with my papers and books if I had been one of three."

THE first tidings from the Special Deputation reached London on Monday, February 8th, in the shape of a letter



THE Rhenish Missionary Society is receiving very encouraging reports from its stations in China. A door has been opened in Kang-pui. "In order to use the opening for the Gospel as industriously as possible," writes Missionary Dietrich, "I repeatedly spent several weeks at Kang-pui. We had two meetings daily. In the forenoon the place was always completely filled with men and women, and in the evening almost all the men came again, when we went over the lesson given in the morning. On certain days numbers of people came in from the country, so that the rather large room could hardly hold them all. So, day by day, we had a rich opportunity of sowing the good seed. Now that we have worked among the people for nine months, they are beginning to grasp what it really means to become a Christian. At my last visit I addressed them on the parable of the net with the good and bad fishes, and warned them very seriously against wrong motives for conversion; and I asked all those who were ready now to break with heathenism and to follow the Gospel, although they had learned that we could not help them in worldly things, to give their names next day as candidates to be prepared for baptism. I wished them, however, first to discuss the matter with their families; for I was anxious that all the members of the family should take this important step together. Next day nearly a hundred persons gave in their names, with the explicit declaration that they intended henceforth to break with heathenism and to follow the Gospel. I am prepared to find that many of these candidates are insincere or weak, and will have to be dismissed or postponed; but I am certain that there is a sound kernel among them. And I have a reasonable hope that to these candidates from Kang-pui and the surrounding villages where we have found entrance, yet more will be added. If God wills, next Whitsuntide we shall baptize the most advanced as first-fruits. I must confess that, in spite of the special circumstances and the extraordinary difficulties, I work with great joy amongst these people."—*Berichte der Rheinischen Missionsgesellschaft*.

THE drink traffic in West Africa is fast becoming a tremendous problem. In the Delta of the Niger gin is practically the currency; so that, if a person wishes to buy food, instead of taking a purse of money he must be armed with a case or two of gin, and, unless he will do this he may even be deprived of some of the necessities of life. That this can be allowed in British possessions is a disgrace to a civilised nation.—*Niger and Yoruba Notes*.

It is only too evident that, as the roads in West Africa are being opened up, the drink traffic rapidly increases. Railways

are to be made from Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast into the interior. Hitherto the drink traffic has been confined to the coast, as the transit of gin by the porters or slaves involves heavy expenditure. The opening up of the country by railways, unless care be exercised, will mean the flooding of the country with gin.—*Niger and Yoruba Notes*.

THE Presbyterian Church of England is asking the children of its schools to support entirely its mission work in Formosa. The work consists of forty-two stations, two hospitals, a college, and a number of schools under the management of eight missionaries. This Children's Mission Field requires about £3,000 a year to maintain its different agencies.—*The Monthly Messenger*.

CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON draws our attention to the fact that in his "Summary of British Contributions to Foreign Missions," which we quoted in January, he has inadvertently given the income for 1895 of the China Inland Mission as £13,480, instead of £33,480.

A CAMPAIGN has been begun by the Christians against the educated classes of China—a battle not with the sword, but with twenty-five letters. It is well known what a difficult task it is to learn to read and write even a small part of the 40,000 Chinese characters. The various missions in China have long striven to introduce the Roman alphabet, but these letters are awkward to the Chinese, who are accustomed to write with a paint brush and Indian ink, and those who have learned writing in our Christian schools do not find it easy to get firm paper, pens, and ink. Lately Mr. Wong, the pastor of the self-supporting Chinese church in Hong Kong, a brother of our ordained helper Wong, has invented a new alphabet which, like the Chinese signs, can be written on Chinese paper with paint brush and Indian ink. Many of the most distinguished Chinese Christians build great hopes on the introduction of this character. They think the people will soon find out that they can learn it in a very short time, they will no longer need the old complicated signs, and the Confucian schools where these are taught will become deserted. Thus the influence of the half-educated heathen teachers will fall away, the worship of Confucius will dwindle, and the study of his writings will be left to the learned. School books and Christian tracts are to be immediately printed in the new character and circulated among the people.—*Berichte der Rheinischen Missionsgesellschaft*.

M. LAUGA brought back with him to France eight Malagasy teachers, who wished to study the French language and methods of education. Four of them were placed at Montpellier, and the other four entered the Maison des Missions at Paris.—*Journal des Missions Evangeliques*.

THE German "Women's Society for the Education of Women in the East" was founded at Berlin in 1842, and has now been sending out women missionary teachers for fifty-four years. Though it was the first society of its kind, it is little understood and ill supported in Germany. It has now six ladies working in connection with the C.M.S. in India, six with other societies in India, and one with the Rhenish Mission in Sumatra. A

friend of the Society has lately presented it with a training home for missionary sisters in Berlin.—*Allgemeine Missions-zeitschrift*.

M. ESCANDE writes from Madagascar :—"From four different quarters the news has arrived this week that the Jesuits have made simultaneous attempts to seize Protestant churches and use them for the Mass, and to place their own teachers in the Protestant Mission schools. They give everyone to understand that they are all-powerful with the Government, and, unfortunately, the help which they get from certain officials gives them a semblance of reason in the eyes of the natives. We are in presence of a very well-combined plan of attack, and to make head against it we are compelled to prodigies of activity. It will not succeed, that is certain; for, thank God, there are in Madagascar Christians who will know how to die for their faith if necessary; and, on the other hand, we are persuaded that General Gallieni will do all that he ought to do to prevent such assaults being perpetrated under the cover of French authority. Nevertheless, these proceedings will trouble and demoralise many of the people, and that will give the Jesuits an excellent opportunity of fishing in troubled water."—*Journal des Missions Evangeliques*.

THE Queen of Sweden has been so interested in reading the "Life of Robert and Louisa Stewart," two of the Kucheng martyrs, that she has sent £6 to support a native Bible-woman in China, and hopes to send it annually.—*The Missionary Review*.

ALL readers of Mr. Stanley's "In Darkest Africa" must have been interested in the curious race of pigmies which he found in the depths of the equatorial forests. He often came upon whole villages of them, and had reason to believe that further north they even occupied cities. His descriptions so deeply interested Miss MacLean, of Glasgow, that she entered into a correspondence with Mr. Stanley in regard to a mission for this strange little people. Miss MacLean applied in turn to the Church Missionary, the Baptist, the Congo Bololo societies, but none of these were in a position to undertake the work. She was then led to apply to the Presbyterian Board in New York, which has an old and strong mission in the Gaboon country on the West Coast. Arrangements have been made with this Society to begin work amongst the dwarfs. Miss MacLean gives £1,500 to launch the Mission and £500 annually to support it, the New York Board supplying the men. We shall await further progress with interest.—*The Missionary*.

AMONG the party of C.E.Z.M.S. missionaries who have recently sailed for Fuh-kien was Miss Codrington, whose life was so wonderfully preserved in the Kucheng massacre. There is also a probability that Mrs. Saunders, the mother of the two sisters who were among the victims of that massacre, will go out at an early date. It may be remembered that this lady heroically said, after hearing of the terrible murder: "If I had two more daughters I should wish them to go to China. I am only waiting till I am able to go myself." It will be a striking object-lesson to the Chinese of Christian love and forgiveness to see these ladies working among them as witnesses for Christ.—*C.M. Intelligencer*.

MR. AND MRS. HEMANS, OF FWAMBO.

IT may be remembered that Mr. and Mrs. Hemans, who have done good service as school master and mistress at Fwambo, left England for Jamaica last May, to spend part of their furlough in their native land. While there they have been hard at work amongst the churches, not having indeed one free Sunday during their visit, which terminated at Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. Hemans have given numerous lectures on their work in Central Africa, illustrated by lantern slides, the proceeds of which have resulted in the sum of £22 7s. 2d. for the funds of the Society. Much interest and enthusiasm have been evoked by the visit of our friends, and they have been the recipients of several addresses, both of welcome and farewell. One of these from the Old Scholars of Whitefield School, Porus, with some forty signatures, stated, amidst many other sympathetic and congratulatory words, that "while England is proud of her Moffat and her Livingstone, Jamaica is proud of her Hemans."

NOTES ON THE PRAYER MEETING.

THE first month's trial of a change of hour in this weekly meeting for prayer and praise, has resulted in an improved attendance and an increased interest.

January 21st.—The Rev. A. Moncur Sime presided and gave a beautiful little address, the key-note of which being that "the preciousness of Christ ought to be sufficient to stimulate missionary zeal."

The Rev. G. Cousins read some interesting letters from Miss Wells, of Canton (one of our Australian missionaries), Dr. Griffith John, Mr. Bonsey, Rev. J. Parker, of Mongolia, and from Rev. Herbert Lewis, of Bellary.

Thanksgiving was made to God for the good and encouraging news contained in some of these letters, also for the India Famine Fund which was being raised. Several prayers were uttered for the special needs brought before the meeting, and also for the Foreign Secretary and his colleague just about to sail.

Miss Turner, who was returning to her work in Almora the next day, said a few words, and she was lovingly commended in prayer to God.

January 28th.—This meeting was conducted by Mr. Arthur Marshall, one of the Society's Directors, who had three days previously seen our Foreign Deputation off from Plymouth.

Mr. Cousins read a letter from Rev. W. Le Quesne, of Calcutta, relating the baptism of a Mohammedan Government School Inspector, whose career had been a most interesting one; also one from Rev. J. Hutchin, of Rarotonga.

Miss Hare, who has lately been sent to Betsileo, wrote her first impressions of the work in her station, describing chiefly the Leper Settlement. The Rev. Bevan Wookey also sent an account of his new work and surroundings in Samoa.

Miss Helen Davies, of Hong Kong, was present, and pleaded for very definite prayer for her work in that great city.

Madagascar's critical needs were repeatedly remembered, and the burden was again rolled back upon God.

African missions, amidst all the increased difficulties arising from the rinderpest, &c., were much prayed for, as were also our missionary friends far and near.

February 4th.—President, Rev. H. Coley.—At this meeting there was quite a little company of missionaries present, China, Madagascar, and Central Africa being represented by Mr. Macgowan, Dr. and Mrs. Mackay, and Mr. and Mrs. Hemans. Mr. Cousins read a letter from the Rev. C. Jukes, which vividly showed the dreadful state of affairs in Madagascar.

This news again brought Madagascar missions very near the hearts of all present, and many and earnest were the prayers sent up for them in their sore plight. Prayer, too, was specially asked for the home side of our Society's work, particularly for the deputation work, which was again beginning, and for the gatherings of Sunday-school teachers that were being held in the Mission House.

February 11th.—The Rev. T. Grear led this meeting, which, though small, was a very bright one.

Mr. Cousins read part of a letter from our Foreign Secretary, posted at Teneriffe, and also one from Rev. Tom Brown, of Kuruman, describing the sad state of things prevalent there. A letter from Mr. Hunt, of Port Moresby, brought tidings of the total loss of the vessel, the *Hanamoia*, which had been given to Mr. Chalmers by a New Zealand friend. Mrs. Chalmers, who was present, said she had received news that five of her New Guinea students and their wives, whom she had tried to train amid great discouragement, had gone forth as evangelists to their brothers still in darkness.

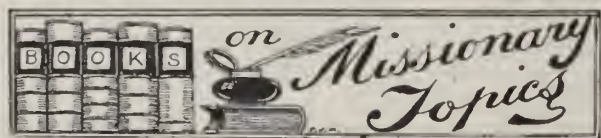
The following will preside during the month at the meetings which are held from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Board Room:—

March 4th.—Rev. W. Edwards, Brentford.

March 11th.—Mrs. Dawson, East Finchley.

March 18th.—The Rev. G. Lyon Turner, M.A., St. John's.

March 25th.—The Rev. E. H. Jones.



ALMANAC FOR 1897, issued by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Boston, Mass., U.S.A.: Charles E. Swett, 1, Somerset Street. Price 10 cents, postpaid.

This Almanac, which is for the table, not for the wall, improves with each number. Consisting of 44 quarto pages, in a stout art paper wrapper, it furnishes the reader with summaries and digests of the A.B.C.F.M. Missions, and supplements these with general statistics of all foreign missionary societies.

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH: a Story of the Missionary Life in Madagascar of William and Lucy S. Johnson. With Illustrations. Edited by P. Doncaster. With an Introductory Chapter by Joseph S. Sewell. London: Headley Bros., 14, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C. Price 3s. 6d.

Books treating of Madagascar and its affairs are increasing in number, and now form a goodly row; but this newest addition will at once take a unique place among them. Unlike its

predecessors, it attempts no general description of the island, nor of Malagasy customs, nor does it profess to give a history of the Christian progress of the people. Incidentally, a variety of collateral matters come into view, but the personal history—the story of the missionary life of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson themselves—is the one theme. If for no other reason we should welcome the book, for it gives prominence to a hitherto rather neglected side of Madagascar mission life. The missionary and his wife, in the privacy of their home and busily occupied in public duty, here become the centre of attraction, and it is only by carefully following their career that we are made to realise the character and extent, the difficulties and the rewards of the work itself. But added to this is the intrinsic interest, tragic and pathetic in its ending, of the narrative itself. William Johnson stands forth in these pages as a man strictly conscientious, unflinchingly steadfast. A pessimistic tone, an apparent harshness and brusqueness of manner, seem at times somewhat to hide his unselfish and deeply sympathetic heart. Moreover, the man perceptibly mellows and softens as he advances; but from first to last he was as true as steel, a faithful friend, a ready and untiring helper. And what can one say of his cultured wife? Hers was indeed a lovely and lovable character. She was like a beam of heaven's own light, shedding brightness and warmth wherever she went. She struck one as being the embodiment of gentleness, tenderness, and love. Her heart overflowed with affection and sympathy, and all who knew her intimately thought of her as one thinks of a sister or a mother. This volume testifies abundantly to the gracious sweetening influence she exercised in every relation of life.

Of the martyrdom by which these two noble and beautiful lives were cut short we will not speak. Its painful details are still too fresh. But such lives are never lived in vain, such deaths always bear rich fruit; and most heartily do we endorse the closing words of the biographer, and record our conviction that "William and Lucy Johnson, through their lives of sweet human-heartedness and loving devotion, and their faithfulness even unto death, will remain a power for good, the inspiring and uplifting influence of which will be felt through the years to come."

THE REV. W. ASHTON'S JUBILEE CHURCH AND WAGON.

THE senior missionary of the London Missionary Society is the Rev. William Ashton, of Barkly West, S. Africa, who was appointed to Kuruman in 1843 as a colleague of the late Dr. Moffat. About four years ago Mr. Ashton celebrated his Jubilee, amidst great rejoicing, and the erection of the Ashton Jubilee Church is a substantial memorial of the occasion. This veteran missionary sends us a photograph of the church, and also one of his wagon which he has used for the last thirty years. Mr. Ashton says that this wagon was once the property of Dr. Livingstone, who bought it for his wife, and when she had no further use for it in her travels he purchased it, and it now belongs to the Society.



MR. ASHTON'S CHURCH.

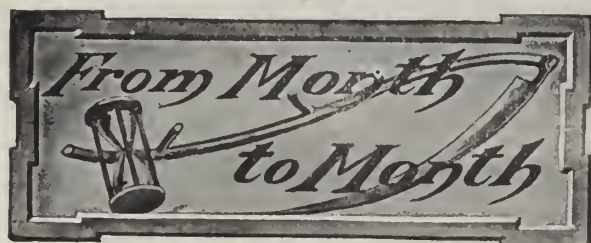


MR. ASHTON'S WAGON!

THE MALUA INSTITUTION.

THE Malua Institution has done a noble work in Samoa for fifty-two years. The aims of its founders, that every village in Samoa might have a well-trained educated native pastor, and that some of its students might take the Gospel to heathen lands, have been accomplished. More than 200 Samoan villages are now supplied with pastors who have had a four years' course in the Malua College, and some 5,000 people of Savage Island have been won to Christ by means of Samoan evangelists. There are sixteen islands to the N.W. of Samoa which first heard the "good news" from the lips of Samoan teachers, and in New Guinea there are nearly twenty more of these living and working amongst the savages there.

On the next page will be found the portrait of a Malua student and his wife.



Notice to the CHRONICLE'S "Own Correspondents."—
Intelligence should be posted so as to reach the Editor
by the 10th of the month preceding the new issue.

CHINA.

IN sending the following general statistics of mission work in Shanghai, the Rev. Dr. Muirhead remarks: "It is a cause for thankfulness that so many are engaged in various forms of Christian enterprise, and that such results have been attained, though divided among such a large number. Were our own staff increased, corresponding would be the harvest reaped. As it is, however, we go on in the city, the settlement, and country sowing the seed, looking to God for the promised blessing. The apparent results are by no means the whole, and we shall see greater things than these." Foreign missions, 12 (English 4, American 7, German 1); foreign missionaries, 57 (male 28, female 29—English 12, American 43, German 2); native churches, 15; members, 1,400; country stations, 30; colleges and schools, 30; scholars, 1,200; Chinese hospitals, 4; Bible depôts, 2 (1 English and 1 American); printing establishment, 1 (American); book and tract society, 1 (English, American, and German); united missionary prayer-meeting (weekly); united missionary conference (monthly); Christian Endeavourers' societies, 12; members, 401; our own native congregations, weekly attendance about 2,000 in city and settlement; country stations and tract visitations, 400 to 500 a week.

THE Rev. J. Parker has spent three days preaching and dispensing at his northern out-station, Lao-Pei-tzu-fu.

"I need not say that we had crowds of people. We had the pleasure of baptizing eight persons, all probationers of over six months' standing. There are some twelve other probationers there whom I thought it wise not to baptize at present. Much caution is needed in that district." Mr. Parker's native helper, Liu Yi, is stationed there with a colporteur, and is gradually giving himself to the Mongol work. He has used his opportunities of conversing in Mongol with great success, and has wonderfully attracted the Mongols to himself and to a better understanding of the Gospel. The work at Ch'ao Yang slowly increases. Mr. Parker has baptized another convert, and there are a good number of probationers. With a private contribution from Scotland he has opened a boys' school in the Hospital compound; there are eleven scholars, and on Sunday they form the nucleus of the first Sunday-school. Another colporteur is constantly stationed at Ta Tzu Kou, and he has sent word to Mr. Parker of five persons being prepared for baptism.

INDIA.

THE first completed block of the new OPENING OF THE Mission Hospital at Jammulamadugu, JAMMULAMA-South India, was opened on December DUGU HOSPITAL. 4th. The Rev. H. J. Goffin, of Kadiri, presided. Prayer was offered by Rev. G. H. Macfarlane, of Cuddapah. Dr. T. V. Campbell, the medical missionary in charge, gave an interesting and encouraging statement as to the progress of the work, which, as he reminded his hearers, was as yet only a commencement. About Rs.6,000 had been collected in India, and Rs.4,000 in England, nearly all of which had been spent in the erection of the present block (porch, consulting room, dispensary, &c.). There yet remained the wards to be built in two wings, which would cost about Rs.12,000 more. There was every prospect of this sum being raised, and of the work being completed within the next year. The Tahsildar (Srinioasachari Garu), Rev. Jacob Cole, Mr. Doraiswami Moodeliar (Court pleader), Rev. W. H. Campbell, M.A., B.D., and Rev. J. M. Ure, of Gooty, spoke. The last-named said he thought special thanks should be given to Dr. Campbell and his assistant, Mr. Vedanayagam, upon whom had devolved a very large share of the worry and responsibility of the building work. This vote of thanks, and one to the chairman, having been put to the meeting and carried with acclamation, limes, flowers, &c., were as usual distributed, and the assembly marched out and round the building, singing a Telugu lyric, after which the corner-stone, with the simple inscription, "L.M.S., 1896," was placed in position by Mrs. Harley (daughter of Rev. W. Johnston, formerly a missionary in the district), and the



STUDENT OF MALUA INSTITUTION AND WIFE.

building was formally declared to be open. The Benediction was then pronounced, and the meeting concluded.

THE small industrial school established HOPEFUL WORK experimentally by the Rev. A. A. Dignum AMONG at Salem has succeeded beyond his expectations. GOLDSMITHS. Mr. Dignum has baptized another member (a son sixteen years of age) of the goldsmith's family whom he baptized in June—viz., the mother and young daughter and three grown-up sons. They belong to a village in the Atur taluk, and had been frequently visited by an old goldsmith named Samuel Asari, who was baptized by Mr. Morris thirty years ago, and is a man of fine Christian character. Three or four other families of the goldsmith caste are receiving Christian instruction from him, and will, it is hoped, ere long make public profession of Christian belief. The work among this class in the villages near Atur is most hopeful, and there are not wanting signs that the labour of many years is soon to bear fruit.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many discour- PROTESTANTISM agements we are experiencing just now, IN MADAGASCAR. we were greatly pleased to find the usual services held on the last day of the old year and the first day of the new year; both drew large and attentive congregations. M. Escande preached on the Thursday afternoon, and said some hopeful and encouraging words to the people. He assured them most strongly of his own deep personal conviction that Protestantism has still a great work before it in Madagascar. In this conviction I suppose we all share, though just now the outlook is gloomy indeed. That so many in and around the capital remain firm in their attachment to the religion in which they have been trained is one of the most hopeful signs we see in these times of widespread defection.

ON the first Sunday in January another A PROMISING convert was baptized in the Bhowanipore CONVERT. Church, Calcutta. "This time," writes the Rev. W. R. Le Quesne, "it was a young Mohammedan, of good family and of good education, named Syed Mohammed Tanhid. He is an inspector of schools under Government. He has been an inquirer for the past two years, having just been led to seek after Christ through reading a statement in the Koran that Jesus Christ is the Holy Spirit. When he failed to get from Mohammedan teachers a satisfactory explanation of that statement he took to studying the Bible, so as to find out for himself what it meant. This led to his conversion, and when he was first brought to us some weeks ago he expressed himself then as ready for baptism; but we kept him waiting for some time, till we had got to know him better, and were quite satisfied of his sincerity. Having no further doubt we baptized him last Sunday. He has gone back to his

lodgings, and is going on with his work. But whether he will be allowed to continue in his present post is doubtful, for many of the schools in his circuit are Mohammedan schools, and as several are held in mosques he will probably not be allowed to visit them when it is known that he is a Christian. He is, however, quite prepared to face all risks and possible loss."—From Mr. J. N. Farquhar we also learn that a friend of this new convert was baptized a week afterwards in the Methodist Episcopal new chapel, and another friend was to come to the Mission and stay a few days for instruction with a view to baptism. "The outlook for Christianity among the educated classes," says Mr. Farquhar, "is very hopeful, far more hopeful than at any other period in my comparatively short experience. God grant us His Spirit, that we may prove wise fishers of men."

DURING last year most of the Mission PROSPEROUS town schools at Coimbatore were re-con- SCHOOL. structed, and are now self-supporting.

At the beginning of the year two graduates were appointed on the staff of the High School, and in July Government recognition was obtained, so that at the present time the school is in a healthier and more independent position than it has been for the past nine or ten years. This change was made possible by the commencement of the new school building, which, when finished, will be a large and imposing structure, costing nearly Rs.13,000. It is expected that when the building is completed the number of scholars will increase by at least 50 per cent. The large hall will be divided into class-rooms in the day, and used for lecture purposes when required. An audience of from 300 to 400 educated Hindus can always be obtained for an English lecture. The Christian Pettah School, which has been a cause of much anxiety for years past, has also been re-organised, and, having increased about threefold, is now a flourishing institution. The Mettapolliam School has gone ahead amazingly. "In connection with the Padamir School," says the Rev. A. W. Brough, "we are not a little proud to have secured at the recent primary examinations two of the highest passes in the district. One of our boys secured 29 and a girl 28½ out of a possible 30 marks, while all the children presented for examination passed, two-thirds of them with merit. Such a result speaks well for the devotion and ability of our Christian headmaster." The Runga Gounden Street Caste Girls' School has likewise done well. In Pelladam the school has been raised to a higher grade, and is in a very flourishing condition.

AFRICA.

THE Rev. E. Lloyd, of Kanye, reports NO LONGER the death of a native Christian woman BLIND. named Khukhwanyane, about forty-five years of age, who had been blind since she was eighteen years old. In 1890 she went to Phalapye with the late Gasekete, wife of the chief Khama and sister of the chief Bathoen. She lived there some two years, until her mistress died, acting as companion to Gasekete. Then she returned to Kanye, and lived there as companion to Bathoen's wife, Gagoanwe. She had been ill about a fortnight. On the Sunday evening before she died Mr. Lloyd paid her a visit, and prayed with his old friend. She was in great bodily distress and anguish, and breathed with the greatest difficulty. But her mind and heart were at peace, for this poor blind woman knew that Jesus was her Saviour. These were her words: "Jesus looks upon me, and I am looking to Jesus. I do not feel that I am blind any longer, since I see my Saviour." Her end was peace. As long as

the Gospel can thus help the Beshwana, brought up in dense heathenism and superstition, we are more than justified in teaching them "the truth as it is in Jesus."

SOUTH SEAS.

AT the last annual meeting in connection with the Rarotongan Mission, held at Avarua, the proceedings were for the first time entirely under native direction. Makea Ngamaru Ariki took the chair, and after singing and prayer he addressed the meeting. The

for the Maoris when they were poor and ignorant. It was now for them to help the Society to do good to other heathen people, for wherever there were heathens there the Society was trying to take the Gospel. By doing good to others, and by that alone, men proved themselves men. If they lived only for themselves, they were like the bullocks and pigs, which died and left no mark behind. Mr. Hutchin briefly seconded the vote of thanks, which was suitably acknowledged by the Chairman, and the meeting, which was most interesting, was brought to a close by the resident missionary pronouncing the Benediction.



A CENTENARY CELEBRATION.—(See page 72.)

Rev. J. J. K. Hutchin announced that the contributions of Rarotonga for the year amounted to £78 4s. 3½d., and the amount contributed towards the salaries of pastors and church expenses was £112 15s. 8d. The whole of the £78 4s. 3½d. was spent on the island in connection with the Tereora School and the Institution. The Institution had a very prosperous career ever since its commencement in 1839, and continued requests for reinforcements for the Mission in New Guinea were received. Addresses were given by Miss Large, by Putaura, Ata (a high chief of Mangaia), Tetai, Morua, and Vaka. The British Resident (Mr. F. J. Moss) moved a vote of thanks to Ngamaru Ariki for presiding at the meeting. Much, he said, had been done by the Society

THE festival to commemorate the Centenary of the Society was celebrated in Rarotonga on November 17th, and is fully reported in *Te Torea*. For weeks beforehand preparations for it on the part of the natives had been going on, and the Rev. J. J. K. and Mrs. Hutchin, who made the arrangements for the gathering, deserve the highest credit for the great success achieved. The British Resident, Mr. F. J. Moss, occupied the chair. Whether viewed from the standpoint of attendance, or interest, or the contributions raised, or the speeches made, or the representative character of the speakers, the meeting was in every way exceedingly interesting and highly successful.

A CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

IN the centre of our picture sits the pastor of the Hui-an district, U by name, a man of Christian refinement, most earnest and intelligent, and one deserving of our respect and affection because of the many difficulties and trials he has, and is passing through, in his pastorship of that most difficult region, the Hui-an district. It is a pleasure to work with such a man, for he is not so conservative as the usual Chinaman, but is delighted with, and will support, if possible, any new plan or idea for the furthering of the cause. At his side sits the boys' school-teacher, a man who might be said to live for the Chinese character, but has very little respect for a Romanised colloquial! The Christians took immense trouble in decorating the usually very bare church, so that it might be worthy of the great occasion. The pictures, lamps, vases, clocks, and handsome furniture were brought from their various homes, whilst the mottoes and ornamental work were made from paper and cardboard, most cleverly designed and cut out by native artists, and, when lighted up at night, the effect was very striking, if quaint. You may notice a rather incongruous collection of dolls hung up on either side. They were sent from England for the Chinese, who thought they would add to the charm of the Centenary Celebration. The pastor composed a hymn for the occasion, which was sung at intervals by a small choir of boys, accompanied by a native band! Of course, all the Christian men for miles round came, but Chinese custom forbade the women appearing, much as they would have enjoyed it.

The heathen came in crowds, and there was preaching going on most of the time on the green outside to large crowds. The happy day ended with feasting and fireworks, and I am sure will never be forgotten by those who were present.

OLIVE MILLER.

DEATH OF MRS. BULLEN.

THE Society has lost an earnest and devoted friend by the death, at Croydon, on January 23rd, of the widow of the Rev. Thomas Bullen, of Samoa. Mrs. Bullen was of a singularly bright and happy disposition, and her life was one of earnest consecration to God, so that in many severe trials she was enabled to maintain a degree of cheerful submission which was a surprise to many. Early in life she became associated with the Baptist church at Salisbury, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Isaac New, and friends still living recall with pleasure her work there. Later she was engaged for a time at the School for Missionaries' Daughters, then at Walthamstow, and here she met her future husband. On her marriage she proceeded with Mr. Bullen to Tutuila and many thrilling stories could she tell of their residence there. Unhappily it was not to be of long duration, for Mr. Bullen did not live many years, and his widow returned with three little girls to her native land. "Of her it may be truly affirmed," wrote the Rev. A. W. Murray, in 1848, "that during the whole period of her missionary career she did what she could. She exerted herself according to her ability, yea, and beyond her ability, to promote the evangelisation of this people." These words, penned nearly fifty years ago, are true of Mrs. Bullen's after-life; and few who came in contact with her could fail to be inspired with some of her missionary zeal. She took special interest in the New Year's Offering for the ships, and was ever ready to encourage children by a subscription. She was laid to rest in Norwood Cemetery on the 27th ult., leaving one daughter to mourn her loss.

A. M. PYE-SMITH.

NORWICH MISSIONARY BAZAAR.

FOR more than thirty years the friends at Chapel-in-the-Field, Norwich, have held an annual bazaar for home and foreign missions on the last Thursday of January. This year, at the opening of the sale, the pastor, Rev. J. Holden, said that the treasurer, Mr. W. Bennett, who had held that office for the past eighteen years, had sent him a statement of the results of this annual effort during that period. The average receipts had been £115 18s. 5d.; 50 per cent. of the net proceeds had been sent to the London Missionary Society. This and the contributions from the church had enabled them to send £2,788 to the Society. The gross receipts this year were nearly £140.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ARRIVALS.

DR. ELIOT CURWEN, Mrs. CURWEN, and child from Peking, per steamer *Aden*, on January 23rd.

REV. F. F. LONGMAN, from ALMORA, per steamer *Oriental*, on January 31st.

MR. J. H. E. HEMANS and Mrs. HEMANS, from JAMAICA, per steamer *Atrato*, on February 3rd.

DEPARTURES.

THE REV. E. S. OAKLEY and Miss ETHEL TURNER, returning to ALMORA, NORTH INDIA, embarked, per steamer *India*, on January 22nd.

THE REV. R. WARDLAW THOMPSON and W. CROSFIELD, Esq., J.P., proceeding to the South Pacific as a SPECIAL DEPUTATION, embarked at Plymouth per steamer *Gothic*, on January 23rd.

THE REV. R. BARON and Mrs. BARON, proceeding to AUSTRALIA, embarked at Marseilles, per steamer *Australien*, on January 31st.

BIRTHS.

DAUNCEY.—On November 19th, 1893, at Port Moresby, the wife of the Rev. H. M. Dauncey, of New Guinea, of a daughter.

THORNE.—On December 10th, 1896, at Antananarivo, Madagascar, the wife of Mr. J. C. Thorne, of a son.

RICE.—On January 13th, at the Mission House, Bangalore, South India, the wife of the Rev. E. P. Rice, B.A., of a son, stillborn. (By Cablegram.)

BROCKWAY.—On February 9th, at Stonegrove, Edgware, the wife of the Rev. W. G. Brockway, B.A., of Calcutta, of a daughter (Phyllis Evelyn).

DEATH.

BULLEN.—On January 23rd, at Addiscombe, Hephzibah, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Bullen, of the Samoan Mission, aged 77.

ORDINATION.

A N Ordination Service was held in the Congregational Church, Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, on September 3rd, 1896, in connection with the appointment of Mr. T. H. SMITH as a missionary to Peking, North China. The Rev. E. T. Dunstan, pastor of church and secretary of the New South Wales Auxiliary, presided. The Rev. Geo. Campbell, president of the Auxiliary, asked the usual questions. The Rev. Joseph King described the field of labour. The Rev. Dr. Fraser, principal of Camden College, offered the ordination prayer. The Rev. Dr. Lawes, of New Guinea, gave the charge; and the Rev. Ed. Lewis, of Bcllary, South India, addressed the congregation.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

It is requested that all Contributions, Remittances, and Payments be made to the REV. A. N. JOHNSON, M.A., Home Secretary, 14, Blomfield Street, London, E.C.; and that, if any portion of these gifts is destined for a special object, full particulars of the place and purpose may be given. Cheques should be crossed Bank of England, and Post-office Orders made payable at the General Post Office.

All orders for Missionary Boxes, Collecting Books, Cards, Magazines, &c., should be addressed to the REV. GEORGE COUSINS, Editorial Secretary, 14, Blomfield Street, London, E.C.

Telegraphic Address—MISSIONARY, LONDON.

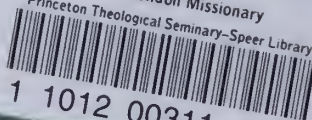
For use in Library only

For use in Library only

I-7 1897

Chronicle of the London Missionary

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



1 1012 00311 4602